



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF PROGRAM APPRAISAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1400

5000
OPA Ser/U114-98
5 May 98

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FROM: RADM R. C. WILLIAMSON, USN (b) (6)
Director, Office of Program Appraisal
Prepared by: CDR (b) (6), OPA, x79396

SUBJECT: Release of Information on Loss of SCORPION - ACTION
MEMORANDUM

PURPOSE: Provide plan of action for your concurrence

DISCUSSION: OPNAV, Director of Submarine Warfare (N-87) is requesting your concurrence on the release of additional information on the loss of the SCORPION and THRESHER in response to FOIA requests. His memo to you, detailing the rationale behind the release is pending CNO chop. A draft is included at Attachment A.

N-87 is the declassification and release authority and intends to complete a review, declassify, and notify family and Congress per the timetable at Attachment B.

A highlighted summary of the release and sample letters to family members is included at Attachment C.

Major points of the planned release include:

- Rebukes a 1993 Navy press interview where the spokesman erroneously stated that the most likely cause of the loss was a torpedo malfunction.
- Points out that a battery well explosion was a plausible casualty which matches all the available evidence.
- Includes portions of a 1970 report which describes the sighting of unidentifiable remains in submarine coveralls and possibly a Navy life jacket. This occurred on only one occasion, and only for a very brief period of time.

COORDINATION: SNPA, OLA, CHINFO, JAG, COMSUBLANT, VCNO, CNO

RECOMMENDATION: Concur with release of information.
22 May 1998

SECNAV: APPROVE: (b) (6)

John H. Dalton
DISAPPROVE/PLEASE SEE ME: _____

Distribution:
UnderSECNAV

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FROM: E.P. Giambastiani, RADM V/R (b) (6)
Director, Submarine Warfare Division

Prepared by: LT (b) (6), N873C1, (b) (6) (b) (6)

SUBJECT: Plan for Release of SCORPION and THRESHER Information -
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

PURPOSE: Inform SECNAV on Plan of Action for release of SCORPION and
THRESHER Information

DISCUSSION:

1. Sir, 1998 marks the 30th and 35th anniversary, respectively, of the losses of SCORPION and THRESHER. The Navy has received several FOIA requests seeking further release of information on their loss (Encl. (1)-(4)).
2. It is my intention to conduct a detailed review and declassification of all material relevant to the loss of these ships. Such a release will not compromise the current operations of the submarine force and may help alleviate some of the controversy surrounding the loss of the ships, especially regarding SCORPION.
3. A review and release of this information will be conducted in accordance with the enclosed plan of action (Enclosure (5)).
4. This process will release information which may appear to contradict earlier verbal statements regarding the loss of SCORPION. Specifically, the findings of a 1970 Structural Advisory Group (SAG), which examined all physical and acoustic evidence, found the possibility of a battery well explosion to fit all available evidence and the possibility of an external explosion to be remote.
5. In 1993, as a response to the environmental concerns raised following the loss of the Russian submarine KOMSOMOLETS, the Navy chose to release a great deal of information involving the loss of both U.S. submarines and the findings of environmental surveys conducted at the wreck sites. During television interviews accompanying the release, the Navy spokesman stated that the most likely cause of loss was a torpedo malfunction. These remarks were based on the findings of the 1968 Court of Inquiry, which found a torpedo explosion to be a possible cause of the loss. The findings of the 1970 SAG report were not known to the spokesman in 1993 (The 1970 SAG report was found subsequent to the interview).

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DATE		(b) (6)	(b) (6)	sec 9 attached fax	(b) (6)
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(b) (6)

6. Enclosure (6) is an information statement which will accompany the FOIA responses and correspondence to the families of the lost submariners. I have also enclosed samples of intended letters which will be mailed to the SCORPION and THRESHER families (Encl. (7)-(8)).

RECOMMENDATION: Release SCORPION and THRESHER information IAW attached recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Mr. Ed Offley ltr dtd 1 Oct 97
2. Mr. Ed Offley ltr dtd 7 Jan 98
3. Mr. Rob Wherry ltr dtd 2 Feb 98
4. Mr. Rob Wherry ltr dtd 2 Feb 98
5. Plan of Action for Release of SCORPION and THRESHER information
6. SCORPION / THRESHER Statement
7. Sample letter to SCORPION families
8. Sample letter to THRESHER families

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

97-145

Ed Offley
Military Reporter(b) (6) voicemail
fax

(b) (6)

10/1/97

Ms. (b) (6)
PAO Office
Naval Sea Systems Command
via commercial fax

Dear (b) (6)

As we discussed on the telephone today, I am writing to request your help in locating and determining the status and release availability of three documents in your command's custody. The three reports concern the search for and analysis of the loss of the submarine USS Scorpion (SSN 589) at sea in May 1968.

I also request copies of the three reports.

During the mid-1980s, I received as a result of a FOIA request the three reports. They were:

- * Report of the Technical Advisory Group to the CNO on the search for the Scorpion (1968)
- * Report on the Trieste II bathyscaphe dives on the Scorpion wreck site in mid-1969
- * Report of the Scorpion Structural Advisory Group (1969-1970)

The documents I have from the mid-1980s are, as you can expect, heavily redacted for security. However, with the passage of more than a decade and other factors (Skipjack class retirement, end of the Cold War), I presume that there has probably been at least one and maybe more periodic security review and downgrading of those three documents.

I would deeply appreciate it if you could ascertain the location of the documents and inquire whether they have indeed undergone a security review/downgrading since 1984. If there is any other information you need from me to expedite this request please call and I'll be glad to help.

Sincerely

(b) (6)

Ed Offley

NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
REQUEST NO. 8F110094
DATE RECEIVED: 9/11/97
DATE DUE: 9/12/97

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Ed Orfley
Military Reporter

(b) (6)

Seattle WA 98111-1909

(b) (6)

voicemail
fax

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Office of the Judge Advocate General
Department of the Navy
200 Stovall St.
Alexandria VA

1/7/98

Att. FOIA Request

Dear Sir:

This is a request under the federal Freedom of Information Act. I am writing to request declassification and release of the following sections of the 1968 Court of Inquiry into the loss of USS Scorpion (SSN 589) that were withheld from release by a recent security declassification review of the file.

The general premise behind this request stems from the following events.

In 1993, the Navy released a newly declassified version of the Scorpion Court of Inquiry "Findings of Fact, Opinions and Recommendations" contained in the initial court hearings (Pages 1049-1096 of Volume 4, Record of Proceedings) and supplemental hearings (Pages 240-258 of Volume 1, Supplemental Record of Proceedings).

In 1996, Navy JAG released to me under FOIA the entire 12-volume record of the Scorpion Court of Inquiry that included not only testimony and exhibits but the same "Findings of Fact, Opinions and Recommendations" from the two phases of the investigation.

Upon examination of the 1993 summaries and 1996 full transcript, I discovered the full transcript of the Court did not reflect the 1993 declassification review. Particularly, the "Findings of Fact, Opinions and Recommendations" sections contained in the full archive contained many deletions that had already been released in 1993. My request for the below material is based on the premise that testimony and exhibits upon which the "Findings of Fact, Opinions and Recommendations" are based itself is no longer validly classified, and that the deletions in the 1996 full transcript are arbitrary and unjustified.

The sections I request, and the grounds for my request for declassification and release, are as follows:

(1) Testimony of Dr. (b) (6) before the reconvened Court of Inquiry on Dec. 10, 1968. (b) (6) testimony is located on Pages 70-107 of Volume 1 of the Supplemental Record of Proceedings.

Dr. (b) (6) a civilian ocean scientist with the Office of Naval Research, was a principal figure in the Scorpion Technical Advisory Group that employed analysis of hydroacoustic data to pinpoint the location of the Scorpion from recordings of the sounds it made while sinking. The reason I believe his testimony is no longer validly classified stems from the 1993 declassification of extensive portions of the reconvened Court of Inquiry's "Findings of Fact, Opinions and Recommendations" identified as pages 240-258 in Volume 1 of the Supplemental Record of Proceedings.

Those declassified findings of fact, opinions and recommendations include detailed, specific information on the hydroacoustic signals and the analyses that led to the discovery of the Scorpion. For example, on Page 240 of Volume 1 of the Supplemental Record of Proceedings, Finding of Fact 1 specifically states that "the acoustic signals attributed to Scorpion were recorded at hydroacoustic stations in Argentina, Newfoundland and the Canary Islands." Page 241 of the same volume contains a chart showing the time of the acoustic events with analysis of their bubble pulse and other sound characteristics. Pages 242-244 contains further details of fact concerning the acoustic events and the "test shot" series conducted by the Navy to validate the accuracy of the initial recordings. The court "Opinions" section beginning on Page 251 of Volume 1 of the Supplemental Record of Proceedings draws heavily on the hydroacoustic evidence to establish its opinions and conclusions as to the most likely cause of the loss of the submarine.

(2) Testimony of Cmdr. (b) (6) USN before the Court of Inquiry (Vol. 3: Page 565-571).

The deletions concern testimony of member of staff, COMASWLANT to the court of inquiry. The 1993 "Findings of Fact, Opinions and Recommendations" section of the Court of Inquiry contained specific references to the Soviet warship formation that were surveilled by Navy P-3s in "Bravo 20" flights, particularly Findings of Fact 40, 46, 48-53 on Pages 1045-1047 of Volume 4. This request is also based on the declassification and release in other Navy documents of the role played by COMASWLANT in the aerial search for the Scorpion (see (b) (6) memo, Exhibit 162, Vol. 10). The 1993 version of declassified Scorpion Court of Inquiry and Supplemental Court of Inquiry summaries of Findings of Fact, Opinions and Recommendations, Pages 1045 (nos. 39-40), 1046 (Nos. 46-51), 1047 (Nos. 52-54) provide details of the Soviet ships that were gleaned by the Bravo 20 operations.

(3) Full text of Endorsement letter from CINCLANTFLT to JAG, Dec. 31, 1968, contained in first part of Volume 1, Scorpion Court of Inquiry Record of Proceedings.

The endorsement letter deleted a reference to a scenario developed by the Court of Inquiry. The

Offley FOIA

Page 3

"Opinions" section of the 1993 Court of Inquiry summary (Pages 1079-1303, supplemental summary Pages 251-255) fully discussed all of the accident scenarios for the Scorpion. Therefore the deletion cited here is arbitrary and not justified.

As you know, the amended Act provides that if some parts of a file are exempt from release that "reasonably segregable" portions shall be provided. I therefore request that if you determine that some portions of this request are exempt, you provide me immediately with a copy of the rest of the request.

If you determine that some or all of the material is exempt from release, I request a detailed explanation as to which exemption(s) you believe covers the material which you are not releasing. I, of course, reserve my right to appeal any decisions on your organization's part declaring portions of this request is exempt from release.

I am prepared to pay reasonable costs for retrieving the material.

However, as you know the amended Act permits you to reduce or waive the search and reproduction fees if that "is in the public interest because furnishing the information can be considered as primarily benefiting the public." Since the purpose of this request is to obtain materials to be used in compiling a report for this newspaper for the purpose of informing its readers of governmental activities, I believe that this request plainly fits that category and I hereby request a full waiver of all fees.

Should you determine otherwise, I authorize you to conduct a search effort based on your current billing schedule not to exceed \$50. If in your estimation a search requiring more than that amount in fees is required to obtain the materials sought in this request, I request that before proceeding you immediately contact me at the above email site (b) (6) (b) (6), by fax (b) (6) or telephone (b) (6) so that we can discuss the matter before continuing.

As provided for by the amended Act, I will expect to receive a reply from you within 10 working days.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Ed Offley

cc: FOIA file

George

NOT JUST
POLITICS AS
USUAL

Rob Wherry
Research Associate

February 2, 1998

Department of Defense—Navy
c/o (b) (6)
PA/FOIA Branch
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-2000
Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear (b) (6)

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. Sec 552.

Please forward copies of the following documents, or documents reasonably segregable from exempted portions, containing information on the sinking of the Navy's nuclear attack submarine Scorpion on or about Oct 31, 1968. I was unable to provide document numbers or other specific information to ease in the search, but have listed important reports I am looking for, first.

- 7113116 (1) Complete transcripts or final reports outlining the findings of the Navy's Inquiry Board which investigated the sinking.
- SUBJUNT (2) Complete maintenance records for the Navy submarine Scorpion in the year preceding its sinking (1967-68).
- 211116 (3) Personnel roster for the Scorpion's crew when it sank on or about October 31, 1968.
- 111116 (4) Complete roster of Inquiry Board members.
- 111116 (5) Complete specifications for the design of the Scorpion, including data on weapons housed on board, crew capacity, propulsion systems, etc.

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George

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USUAL.

Rob Wherry
Research Associate

Page Two

Re: Freedom of Information Act Requests (continued)

To: (b) (6)

N87 (C) A report outlining a proposed project called the Submarine Safety Program (1963).

In order to help determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am a representative of the news media and this request is made as part of a news gathering and not for commercial use.

I am willing to pay fees for this request up to a maximum of ninety dollars (\$90). If you estimate that fees will exceed this amount, please inform me first. However, I request a waiver of all fees for this request. Disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in my commercial interest.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

(b) (6)

Rob Wherry
c/o George Magazine

(b) (6)

New York, NY 10019

(b) (6)

George

NOT JUST
POLITICS AS
USUAL

Rob Wherry
Research Associate

February 2, 1998

Department of Defense—Navy
c/o (b) (6)
PA/FOIA Branch
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-2000
Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear (b) (6)

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. Sec 552.

Please forward copies of the following documents, or documents reasonably segregable from exempted portions, containing information on the sinking of the Navy's nuclear attack submarine Thresher on April 10, 1963. I was unable to provide document numbers or other specific information to ease in the search, but have listed important reports I am looking for, first.

- DASHG (1) —Complete transcripts or final reports outlining the findings of the Navy's Inquiry Board which investigated the sinking.
- SUBSINK (2) —Complete maintenance records for the Navy submarine Thresher (SSN 593) from 1960 to April 1963.
- DASHG (2) —Personnel roster for the Thresher's crew when it sank on April 10, 1963.
- DASHG (4) —Complete roster of Inquiry Board members.
- NAVSEA (5) —Complete specifications for the design of the Thresher or Skip Jack class submarines, including data on weapons housed on board, crew capacity, propulsion systems, etc.
- 7 (6) —A report detailing the findings of the Trieste diving sphere that found the wreck of the Thresher on June 27, 1963.

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3-9

George

NOT JUST
POLITICS AS
USUAL.

Rob Wherry
Research Associate

Page Two

Re: Freedom of Information Act Requests (continued)

To: (b) (6)

N87 (7) —A report outlining a proposed project called the Submarine Safety Program (1963).

NAVSCA (5) —The document released May 29, 1981, outlining the 32 nuclear mishaps the Navy had experienced over the last 30 years (30 years from 1981). This document was outlined in an UPI story on the same date.

In order to help determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am a representative of the news media and this request is made as part of a news gathering and not for commercial use.

I am willing to pay fees for this request up to a maximum of ninety dollars (\$90). If you estimate that fees will exceed this amount, please inform me first. However, I request a waiver of all fees for this request. Disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in my commercial interest.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

(b) (6)

Rob Wherry
c/o George Magazine

(b) (6)

New York, NY 10019

(b) (6)

Plan for Release of SCORPION and THRESHER Information:

1. Inform SCORPION and THRESHER families of upcoming information release.
 - a) **4 May 1998:** Mail information package to SCORPION families. Package will include the following:
 - i) Cover letter signed out by COMSUBLANT
 - ii) SCORPION/THRESHER Statement
 - iii) Redacted version of 1970 Structural Advisory Report
 - iv) Redacted version of 1987 NAVSEA (03) memo
 - b) **4 May 1998:** Mail information package to THRESHER families
 - i) Cover letter signed out by COMSUBLANT
 - ii) SCORPION / THRESHER Statement
2. Respond to FOIA's .
 - a) **30 April 1998:** Submit interim response to George Magazine
 - b) **11 May 1998:** FEDEX final FOIA response to Mr. Offley. Package to Offley will include the following
 - i) Cover letter signed out by N873.
 - ii) SCORPION/THRESHER statement
 - iii) Redacted version of 1970 Structural Analysis Group
 - iv) Redacted version of requested Court of Inquiry Testimony and memos
 - v) Redacted version of 1987 NAVSEA (03) memo
 - c) **14 May 1998:** Mail partial FOIA response to George magazine. Package to George will include:
 - i) Cover letter signed out by N873
 - ii) SCORPION/THRESHER statement
 - iii) Released Findings of Fact for SCORPION Court of Inquiry
 - iv) Released Findings of Fact for THRESHER Court of Inquiry
 - v) Personnel Roster for SCORPION crew at time of sinking
 - vi) Personnel Roster for SCORPION Court of Inquiry board members
 - vii) Report outlining the Submarine Safety Program proposal, if located
 - viii) Personnel Roster for THRESHER crew at time of sinking
 - ix) Personnel Roster for THRESHER Court of Inquiry board members

Enclosure (5)

- d) **18 May 1998 (Approx.):** CHINFO will contact other members of the media as appropriate.
 - e) **1 June 1998:** Mail final FOIA response to George magazine. Package to George will include.
 - i) Cover letter signed out by N873 .
 - ii) Report detailing findings of 1964 dives on THRESHER site. (Note: George is asking for a 1963 report, but we have not located this report as of 27 April 1998)
 - iii) If located, redacted version of 1981 report outlining 32 nuclear mishaps the Navy had suffered.
- Note:** George is also asking for detailed design specs and complete maintenance records for year preceding sinking for both ships.
- a) A review of the complete maintenance records for both vessels is beyond the "reasonableness" scope of the Act. Our response to George will request them to submit a more focused request.
 - b) The position of NAVSEA (08) is to not release the design specs of the SKIPJACK and THRESHER submarine classes due to security considerations.
- 3. **11 May 1998:** OLA will notify interested members of Congress as appropriate.
 - 4. **27 April - 31 October 1998:** Continue to identify, review, and declassify material relating to SCORPION and THRESHER. All material will be sent to Naval Archives for processing and permanent archiving.
 - 5. **31 October 1998:** Establish procedure for access to SCORPION and THRESHER material.
 - a) All material will be released to the Naval Archives upon review for permanent archiving. Naval Archives will be the central location for all SCORPION and THRESHER material.
 - b) New London, Norfolk, Bremerton, and San Diego Submarine bases will be contacted to determine demand for and feasibility of establishing a viewing room for civilian access to the material.

Enclosure (5)

Statement Regarding USS THRESHER and USS SCORPION

Each year, as we celebrate the birthday of the Submarine Force, we also reflect on the tragic loss of the submarines USS THRESHER in 1963 and USS SCORPION in 1968. Our sympathy and prayers go out to the families of the 228 brave men who perished with these ships. These courageous men, joined by over 3500 submariners of World War II who remain on eternal patrol, are revered and remembered for their dedicated service to our country. Reflection on the USS THRESHER and USS SCORPION tragedies and the extensive effort to understand what happened has contributed significantly to improved designs and procedures which have prevented further losses. Submariners of today, along with all Americans, owe a tremendous debt to those who have given their lives serving aboard United States submarines.

The Navy is conducting a complete review of all of the records related to the sinking of both USS THRESHER and USS SCORPION in order to declassify and release as much of the record as possible, consistent with the need to protect information related to submarine design and operations. This will be a significant undertaking, since there are considerable records to be reviewed.

USS THRESHER

USS THRESHER sank on 10 April 1963, approximately 100 miles east of Cape Cod while conducting sea trials. Following several shallow dives, USS THRESHER commenced a deep dive. During this deep dive, a problem developed, resulting in USS THRESHER reporting to USS SKYLARK (an escort ship) that the submarine was experiencing minor difficulties. A short time later, another message, which could not be completely understood, was

transmitted from USS THRESHER. Shortly thereafter, several noises were heard which are believed to be the sound of the submarine attempting to blow main ballast tanks (an emergency surface evolution). Finally came the sound of the hull crushing at great depth.

A formal Court of Inquiry was convened on 11 April 1963 to determine, if possible, the cause of the disaster. The ship was located on the ocean floor in May 1963. Although a number of possible scenarios were developed that could have led to the loss of the ship, the Court of Inquiry concluded that it was not possible to establish the precise cause of the accident. The Court concluded the most likely cause of the loss was the failure of a silver brazed joint (connection) in a seawater pipe.

USS SCORPION

USS SCORPION was lost at sea in the vicinity of the Azores in May 1968, while returning from a 3 month Mediterranean deployment. When the ship failed to return to Norfolk on schedule, an extensive search for the ship was initiated. On 5 June 1968, Admiral Thomas Moorer, the Chief of Naval Operations, announced that SCORPION was lost at sea and her crew presumed dead.

A formal Court of Inquiry was convened in June 1968 to determine the cause of the loss of USS SCORPION. Since the ship had not yet been located, this Court of Inquiry was unable to establish the cause of the accident. In October 1968, the submarine was located and information was obtained from the wreckage. In November 1968, the Court of Inquiry reconvened. Despite the additional information available to be reviewed, the Court of Inquiry was

unable to determine with any certainty the cause of the loss of USS SCORPION and recommended an additional trip be made to the site of the sunken submarine. In May 1969, additional trips were made to the site, resulting in additional information being collected. In October 1969, a technical review panel, called the Structural Analysis Group (SAG), was convened to evaluate all the available data. In June 1970, this group issued their report. The SAG was able to evaluate the plausibility of a number of possible scenarios, but was still unable to make a conclusive determination regarding the cause of the loss.

In 1993, the Navy released declassified versions of the Official Courts of Inquiry for the loss of both USS THRESHER and USS SCORPION. In addition, extensive information regarding various trips to the sites for environmental monitoring, and the findings of the environmental monitoring were released. Further, it was confirmed that USS SCORPION was carrying two nuclear tipped torpedoes when she sank. The extensive environmental analysis conducted at both sites confirmed that there was no significant effect on the environment from the nuclear reactors aboard either ship or from the nuclear weapons aboard USS SCORPION. Certain technical information related to the design and operation of both submarines was not released, since some of the most modern submarine technology deployed today is either very similar to, or is based on, the technology aboard these submarines and remains classified.

Also in 1993, the Navy indicated during interviews that the specific cause of the accidents could not be precisely determined. In response to questions, a Navy official discussed in some detail one hypothesis, which was considered by the Navy Court of Inquiry, that a malfunctioning torpedo jettisoned by USS SCORPION had exploded close aboard leading to the sinking. While this was a scenario considered plausible by the Navy Court of Inquiry as well as many

submariners, an alternative hypothesis was advanced by the Structural Analysis Group. The SAG, consistent with the Court of Inquiry, noted that any explanation of the loss of USS SCORPION could only be conjecture, but found that a battery well explosion was a plausible casualty which matched all the available evidence. The probability of an external explosion causing the loss was considered very low. The Navy official did not discuss this finding in 1993 because he was unaware of the SAG report. In subsequent reviews of data, including data collected from later visits to the USS SCORPION site, the Navy concluded that there was nothing that would add more credence to, or detract from, the 1970 SAG review of each hypothesis and its respective plausibility. In short, the cause of the sinking of USS SCORPION remains unknown.

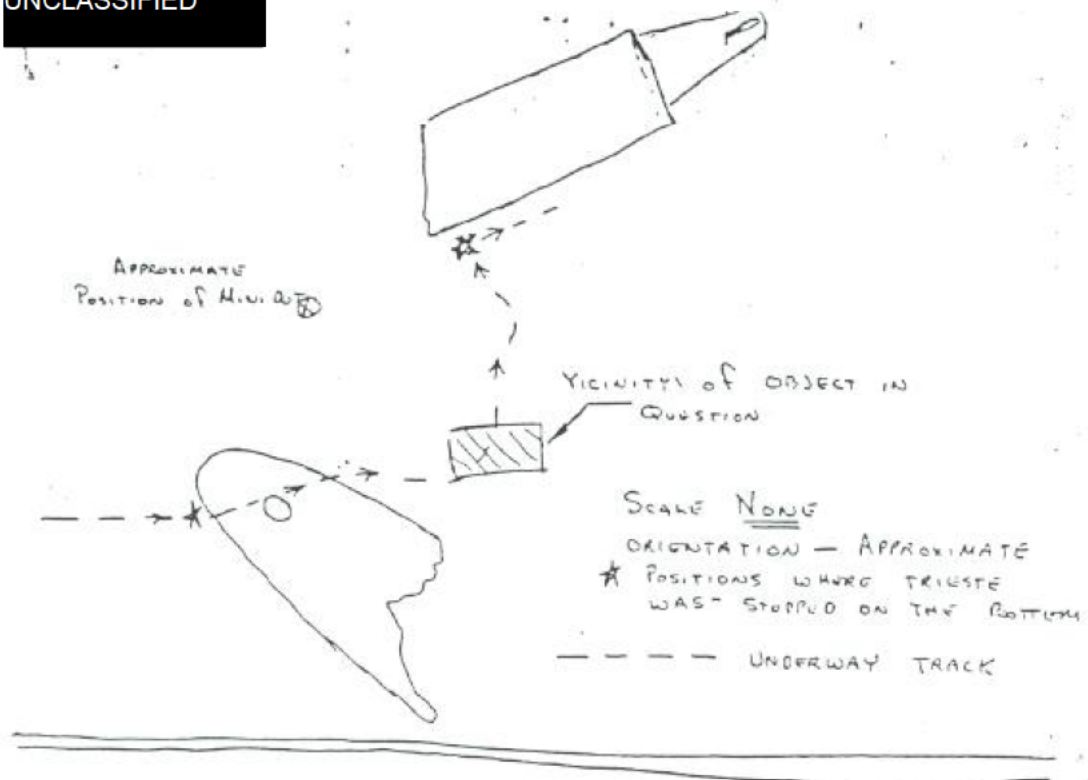
This 1970 SAG report also includes the description of an apparent sighting of unidentifiable^{human} remains in submarine coveralls and possibly a Navy life jacket. This sighting occurred on only one occasion, and only for a very brief period of time, during TRIESTE II's survey of SCORPION's final resting place in the summer of 1969. *

Conclusion

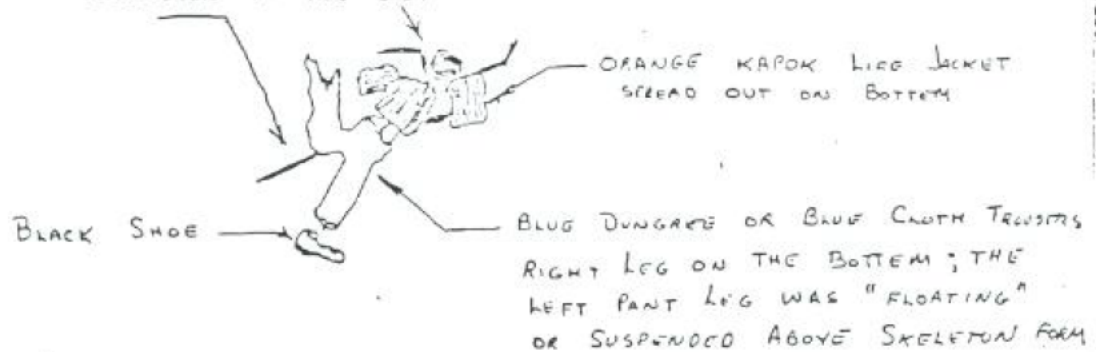
In conclusion, the Navy is committed to review for release all of the information concerning the loss of USS THRESHER and USS SCORPION.

- * - A SKETCH of this sighting will be included in the FOIA Release to the media but will not be included in the packet sent to the families of SCORPION crewmembers.
- Xerox of sketch is next under.

UNCLASSIFIED



OBJECTS WHICH APPEARED TO
BE A SKELETON OR IMPRESSION — SKELETON WAS "FACE DOWN"
OF SKELETON IN THE SILT



NO OTHER DEBRIS WERE SEEN IN THE IMMEDIATE
VICINITY — WITHIN 10 FEET.

UNCLASSIFIED

Dear (b) (6)

As we approach the 30th anniversary of the tragic loss of USS SCORPION, our sympathy and prayers go out to the families of her brave crew. The contributions and sacrifices of USS SCORPION's crew in defense of our Nation are not forgotten. There will always be a special place in the heart of every submariner for the crew of USS SCORPION.

Based on continuing interest in USS SCORPION and after careful consideration of the records, the Navy has decided to review and release as much information as possible concerning her loss. I have enclosed a copy of a statement on the losses of USS THRESHER and USS SCORPION which discusses the Navy's plans.

As a first step in the process, the Navy will release for the first time a previously classified study that was completed in 1970 by a specially commissioned Structural Analysis Group. This study examined all evidence available in 1970 and evaluated the plausibility of various causes for the ship's loss. The group was unable to determine conclusively the cause of USS SCORPION's loss. Individuals involved in the release of the information in 1993 were unaware of the SAG report.

The Navy is also releasing a 1987 memo from the Naval Sea Systems Command which confirms that a 1986 investigation of the ship's final resting place neither adds to nor detracts from the conclusions of the Structural Analysis Group. I have enclosed extracts from the Group's report, as well as the 1987 Naval Sea Systems Command memo and a summary Statement. If you would like a copy of the entire Structural Analysis Group report, please contact LT (b) (6) at (b) (6).

You may expect news reports concerning USS SCORPION in the forthcoming weeks. Should you have any questions or concerns about press coverage, please feel free to contact my Public Affairs Officer, LCDR (b) (6) at (b) (6).

God bless you and God bless the men of SCORPION.

Dear,

As we reflect on the 35th anniversary of the tragic loss of USS THRESHER, our sympathy and prayers go out to the families of her brave crew and the embarked support personnel. The contributions and sacrifices of the men aboard USS THRESHER in defense of our Nation are not forgotten. There will always be a special place in the heart of every submariner for the USS THRESHER.

Based on continuing interest in the loss of both USS THRESHER and USS SCORPION and after careful consideration of the records, the Navy has decided to review and release as much information as possible concerning their loss. I have enclosed a copy of a statement on the losses of USS THRESHER and USS SCORPION which discusses the Navy's plans.

You may expect news reports concerning USS THRESHER in the forthcoming weeks. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact my Public Affairs Officer, LCDR (b) (6) (b) (6) at (b) (6)

God bless you and God bless the men of THRESHER.